



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/582,453

06/14/2007

Richard William Eve

5724T-000001/US/NP

2092

27572 7590 09/27/2010
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

ZIMMERMANN, JOHN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2861

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/27/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| Response to Rule 312 Communication | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/582,453 | EVE, RICHARD WILLIAM |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | John P. Zimmermann | 2861 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 09 September 2010 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

a) ☐ entered.

b) ☒ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.

c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.

Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.

e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

The IDS submitted on 03 August 2010 was considered 01 September 2010 and filed 02 September 2010.

The Reasons for Allowance has been rewritten as follows:

The primary reason for allowance of the claims is the amending of independent claims 1, 17, 26, & 27 to include previously unclaimed limitations. These limitations include but are not limited to a mask element arranged between the first and second rollers such that a first gap and a second gap are defined between the mask element and the rollers. The subsequent independent claims particularly claim 1 are allowable because the prior art of record fails to teach the specific ink jet printing apparatus including a printhead arrangement for printing an image on a substrate in a pass of the substrate past the printhead arrangement in a printing direction, the printer comprising: a printhead arrangement including a plurality of ink jet printheads for emitting droplets towards a surface of the substrate to form the image, wherein the printhead arrangement extends across substantially the full width of the substrate in a direction perpendicular to the printing direction; a plurality of rollers arranged to move the substrate past the printheads during the emission of the droplets from the printheads to print the image; pressure source arranged to apply a negative gauge pressure to the substrate to hold the substrate to the rollers in the region of the printhead arrangement; a mask element arranged between first and second rollers of the plurality of rollers such that a first gap is defined between the mask element and the first roller as well as a second gap between the mask element and the second roller, wherein the mask element throttles airflow caused by the negative gauge pressure through the first and second gaps; wherein the apparatus is adapted to hold the printheads substantially stationary while the image is printed in a pass of the substrate past the printhead arrangement

/MATTHEW LUU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2861